



Selecting Authentic Materials In Teaching English

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ABSTRACT

The pros of the utilizing authentic materials for the language students have been estimated to be an effective way to teach English by providing real-life experience in the classroom environment. There are many available materials to be worth promoting to be able to satisfy the needs of students in all knowledge sphere. The English language has been in a wide usage of all aspects such as: economics, politics, social issues and these can be found in authentic materials. They are a great help to collaborate language skills as well as knowledge. In the process of teaching a foreign language it is important to consider what kind of authentic material to choose and which is more efficient to the requirements of the learners. In this article the explanation and strategies of selecting appropriate authentic materials will be put forward.

KEYWORDS

Real audience, interesting and relevant materials, magazines, software , brochure, TV ads, commercials.

INTRODUCTION

The broad usage of the authentic materials during the process of learning languages has began the new way of creating more relevant atmosphere to the classroom. The investigations have already proved the merits of introducing these aids to learners. It is stated that authentic materials can provide real

issues and boost the capacity of students outlook. Their acquisition to life is improved with the help of them. Additionally, according to some common claims learners concentration and involvement in society will be increased and their level of on-task behavior is developed by using authentic materials.

However, the exact definition to the notion of authenticity is not so clear to most teachers and students. Authentic materials have many explanations and meaning given by researchers and experienced teachers.

According to the statement by Morrow: " An authentic text is a stretch of real language, produced by a real speaker or writer for a real audience and designed to convey a real message of sort". It may be comprehended as a text or a material conveyed by a real person to a real audience. It does not mean that the authentic materials should be done for teaching learners on purpose. Authentic materials are regarded as to be only books which gives wrong notion to other people. And more recently Kilickaya gave a definition to these materials "exposure to the real usage of the everyday life language" and the usage of materials which are produced by native speakers to their own purposes in daily life.

The world we live is changing in a rapid speed because of globalization in all sphere. The English is becoming more and more worldwide, the number of speakers, users, learners of the language is increasing quickly. People choose English as a second language for various purposes including doing business studying, touring, and more. The greatest contribution of the authentic materials in English is their favour in spreading language by texts, lectures, contracts, correspondence, announcements, assignments, discussion posts and many others written or produced in English. The diversity of the information provides a mammoth amount of knowledge to the learners. People have been able to use one language because of globalization, it is a cause of the throughout learning culture, scientific researches of foreign scientists, information and communication technologies in the world. For that reason teaching authentic materials is more important comparing to the last generation who witnessed less development in all spheres. English teachers are asked to select

and use teaching resources with an attention. More emphasis should be put on the pedagogical purpose. There are some questions for the trainers to be answered before selecting an authentic material for the lesson:

1. Is this material relevant for the real goal of communication?
2. Does it include correct items of lexical and grammar resources?
3. Is it suitable for teaching purpose?
4. Does it answer to the requirements of students?

Authentic materials have to be suitable for the students needs not for the teachers own sake to satisfy the need of the lesson. For instance: many teachers can choose materials without understanding the content and select more general texts which are not interesting for their students or not paying attention to the students' needs. Regarding the state by Robinson (1991:56) the special preparation of this discourse type can be time consuming. "The danger exists that interesting-looking authentic materials are used in an uninteresting way because too much of the preparation time has been spent in looking for the materials and not enough in considering their exploitation " The success of an authentic material is provided by the means of audiovisual equipments. There is a wide variety of authentic material sources which belong to the preference of teachers for instance : literature, computer software, media and others. But it is not an easy task to choose an appropriate and interesting material for the students level or outlook. Mostly, students are keen on learning a specific information about their profession or special sphere.

Magazine articles, books, newspaper advertisements written by researchers to get the professionals of the sphere to be informed. Advances in the specific field for study purposes are given in such kind of materials. While choosing a text trainers should be

careful in picking up an item from the article because taking all information may cause to the totally waste of time and students get bored easily. In our modern life one can not assume the classroom without W.W.W as a source of information where in the exchange of information is done by cross-cultural awareness. Large amounts of texts and sources can be found and they are acceptable to produce attractive, beneficial material. But while selecting materials it should be taken into account that the meaning of the text is important because what students are expected to do with the material is to be clear.

Next available sources are TV commercials and advertisements as a means of teaching language in context. Their preference is that they do not contain a great deal of redundancy and short in size. The commercials which are action-oriented can increase understanding owing to the availability of sufficient visual support: body language non-verbal clues, facial expressions that help greatly to comprehension. Useful authentic materials can be a brochures too because of their brief, specific and great variety of applications. They can help to the creative thinking of the students because of having an attractive and modern design. They may contain specific information about different products or services.

Written instructions and manuals are very commonly used types of authentic materials for the future professionals of various sectors of job market. They are written in a easy language, thus it is not difficult for the learners to catch up the meaning. Specific software is also implemented to the language classroom to enable students to interact freely with the technological aids. It is an important part of the language process, and the use of software highlights computer literacy, which is a tough need for the learners of XXI century. Next thing while considering the authenticity of the material is the vocabulary base of the text.

Picking up new words with the help of texts is to be supported. Every aspect of the communication is to be improved by them. Vocabulary comprehension enables the students' success in reading and listening skills. Speaking is a skill which may be gotten better by mastering in listening and writing. The usage of authentic materials is an indispensable way to help students to develop language skills.

As for the organization of the given tasks it is better to organize the class in pairs rather than working individually, because in small groups students can perform their abilities in language and collaborative skills develop by this. In fact, different abilities complement one another. The utilization of authentic materials is highlighted because of it's beneficial sides to do better all aspects of students .

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